



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

February 7, 2025

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
121 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 876, *Access to Counsel in Evictions - Special Fund - Alteration*

Dear Chairs Barnes and Clippinger,

I urge the Committees to support House Bill 876, Access to Counsel in Evictions - Special Fund - Alteration, which would expand the funding sources for accessing counsel in eviction cases to include money received by the Attorney General's Antitrust Division from a final settlement, agreement, or judgment from cases in which a party has violated the Maryland Antitrust Act by artificially inflating rental costs.

Thank you Delegate Rosenberg for introducing this legislation. Since access to counsel in evictions first passed, it has been a struggle to meet the demand. Facilitating the use of the antitrust settlement funds in this way will help ensure an adequate supply of legal assistance for tenants in need. I respectfully urge the committees to adopt a favorable report on HB 876.

Very truly yours,

Dawn Luedtke
Montgomery County Councilmember
District 7

cc: Members of the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees

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